



HR0532

LRB098 12889 MST 47384 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize and congratulate
4 Willie B. Nelson for his outstanding service to the Improved
5 Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of The World and the East
6 St. Louis Community; and

7 WHEREAS, District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B.
8 Nelson was initiated in Hercules Lodge #90 Improved Benevolent
9 Protective Order of Elks of the World in June 1955 and has
10 served the Elk family in leadership roles for 58 consecutive
11 years on the local level, the state association level, the
12 Grand Lodge of Elks level, and in the District Deputy Grand
13 Exalted Rulers Council; he is regarded as a mentor and role
14 model for all Brother Elks; and

15 WHEREAS, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B. Nelson served
16 as State Director of the Illinois-Wisconsin State Association
17 for 15 consecutive years; during those years, 12
18 Illinois-Wisconsin State Education Department winners came
19 from the City of East St. Louis and surrounding areas; all
20 winners were selected by Illinois-Wisconsin State Association
21 judges and continue to work with the Education Department in
22 Hercules Lodge #90 today; and

1 WHEREAS, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B. Nelson served
2 as Exalted Ruler of Hercules Lodge #90 from 1975 through 1990,
3 was re-elected to serve in the year of 2007, and continues to
4 serve as Exalted Ruler today; and

5 WHEREAS, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B. Nelson is a
6 retired branch manager for Associated Bank and presently serves
7 as a consultant to the current branch manager; his career began
8 with him serving as a custodian for Associated Bank (then
9 Illini Federal Savings and Loan Association), when
10 African-Americans were not allowed to hold any other positions;
11 he persevered and attended school in the evening, completing
12 numerous training programs and internships with the bank to
13 eventually reach branch manager status; he served Associated
14 Bank for 43 years prior to retirement; and

15 WHEREAS, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B. Nelson served
16 as a leader for numerous community organizations, such as
17 President of Target 2000, President of the Katherine Dunham
18 Museum, President of the East St. Louis Chamber of Commerce,
19 Commissioner on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Housing
20 Department, and past President of the Leadership Council of
21 Southwestern Illinois; he presently serves as President of the
22 Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, which focuses on
23 maintaining affordable healthcare for all people; and

1 WHEREAS, Past Grand Exalted Ruler Willie B. Nelson is the
2 father of a loving daughter, Lavonda Nelson, and several
3 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his wife and 2 of his
4 children have passed away; he is a member of the Greater Faith
5 Christian Church of Centreville, where he serves as Chairman of
6 the Board of Trustees and Interim Finance Director; and

7 WHEREAS, The Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks
8 of the World's East St. Louis family applaud Willie B. Nelson
9 for his lifetime of accomplishments and his persistence to keep
10 Elkdom and community service alive and thriving in Southern
11 Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Willie B. Nelson serves as a model of hard work,
13 integrity, and dedication for the State of Illinois; therefore,
14 be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Willie B. Nelson for his outstanding service to
18 the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of The World
19 and the East St. Louis Community, and wish him continued
20 success and happiness in the future; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Willie B. Nelson as a symbol of our esteem and

HR0532

-4-

LRB098 12889 MST 47384 r

1 respect.